

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FOI/PA# 1342370-0

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SMALL DEFENSE PLANTS ADMINISTRATION
Washington 25, D. C.

August 8, 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 05-19-2009 BY 60322 UC/LP/STP/KM

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have recently received information concerning [redacted]
born [redacted] at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that might be of
interest to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Excerpts from our file on this subject which seem pertinent
are as follows.

[redacted] advised that some time during the summer of 1951,
probably during the month of August, he was sitting in the park at
18th and Columbia Road, N. W., Washington, D. C., at approximately
8:00 PM, when another man sat beside him on the park bench. [redacted]
noticed that he was carrying a foreign newspaper and [redacted] being
an "inquisitive type", started talking to the man and asking him
what kind of paper it was and what sort of work he was doing. It
turned out that this was a Russian newspaper and the man stated he was
employed as a clerk in the Russian Embassy in Washington. [redacted] and
the man continued their conversation and discussed conditions in Russia
as compared with those here in the States. [redacted] asked the Russian
whether conditions in Russia were as bad as have been painted in the
American press or whether they were as good as conditions in the States.
The Russian replied that the conditions in Russia were excellent and
he offered to show [redacted] a Russian movie depicting these conditions
in Russia. [redacted] gave the Russian his name and address and promised
to attend a showing of the film at the Russian Embassy that night.

[redacted] advised that the conversation took about twenty minutes
and after the conversation he returned to his room at [redacted]
[redacted] As soon as he got to his room, he stated that he had realized
what he had done in engaging this Russian in conversation. He further
stated that, feeling very nervous and upset about the matter, he discussed
the problem with [redacted] who advised him to forget
the incident and not go to the Russian Embassy. [redacted] advised that
he did not go to the Embassy that night and since that time he has not
seen or heard from the Russian Embassy employee.

[redacted] was asked if he knew the name of the Russian employee
but he advised that the Russian did not give his name. [redacted] gave the
following description of the man:

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - WASH. D. C.	

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Age - about [redacted]
Hair - sandy, thinning
Build - medium to stocky
Speech - heavy foreign accent
Dress - no hat, business suit
Appearance - does not appear to be a foreigner

b6
b7C

[redacted] was unable to supply any other descriptive details, although he was questioned at great length in this regard. [redacted] stated that this individual said he lived on [redacted] in an apartment building which he believed is called [redacted]. He also recalled that this individual told him that he had [redacted] and that he had been in this country only a short time.

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An informant who is an expert on [redacted] contacted for an evaluation of the story told by [redacted]. The informant stated that first of all it is very unusual for any [redacted] to [redacted]

[redacted] It was his opinion that the most plausible explanation of this incident, if it occurred as [redacted] said it did, is that the Soviet employee had homosexual motives. This informant advised that the name of [redacted] [redacted] has never appeared in information available to [redacted]

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During the course of the interview, [redacted] was questioned closely about his background prior to this incident. He advised that his father, [redacted] and his mother, now deceased, were both born in Russia and both came to this country when they were small children. He, [redacted] is an American citizen. His father has since remarried and his present wife is also a Russian immigrant, coming to this country in 1918. [redacted] advised however that he has no contacts in Russia and, as far as he knows, has no family over there. He further advised that as far as he knows his father and stepmother have no contacts in Russia. His father, [redacted] is now running a store on Lancaster Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In answer to direct questioning, [redacted] emphasized that he is not and never has been a member of the Communist Party and that none of his family are members of the Communist Party.

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[redacted] advised that he is now residing at [redacted] Washington, D. C. He advised that on July 5, 1952 he resigned a job as [redacted] for a Wilmington newspaper because he was not making enough money. He came to Washington and before applying for a job at the Small Defense Plants Administration he applied for a job as a manual writer in the Armed Services Security Agency, 1436 U Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

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The files of the following agencies were checked on [redacted] and [redacted], with negative results: House Un-American Activities Committee; Federal Bureau of Investigation, criminal and subversive; Washington, D. C. Police Department, criminal and subversive; and the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Police Department, criminal and subversive.

The Philadelphia Police Department reported that in 1949 one [redacted] known to be [redacted] turned in [redacted] to the Philadelphia Police Department as an [redacted]. No disposition was made in the case. [redacted] reports that [redacted] is a [redacted] is now in the Army, and has just returned from Korea. b6 b7C

The Philadelphia Police Department also reported that one [redacted] not identified as the father of subject, was arrested in Newark in 1932 for running a disorderly house. No disposition was made in this case.

The House Committee on Un-American Activities has a record on one [redacted] of Newark, New Jersey, not known to be related to subject. [redacted] is known to cooperate with the Communist Party in their civil rights campaign - [redacted] 1947. He was attorney for [redacted] the [redacted] 1950. He cooperated with the Communist Party and Civil Rights Congress in New Jersey - [redacted] 1947. b6 b7C

[redacted] reports that he knows of no relative of the name [redacted] and that he does not know [redacted] personally.

The above report is being submitted to you for your information and any action you might want to take. I would appreciate being informed if any investigation is conducted in this matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert A. Maheu

Robert A. Maheu, Director
Office of Compliance
and Security

SAC, Washington Field

August 15, 1952

Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
(SOVIET EMBASSY CLERK,
WASHINGTON, D. C.)
ROBERT A. MAHEU - INFORMANT
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Two copies of a letter dated August 8, 1952,
from Robert A. Maheu, Director, Office of Compliance
and Security, Small Defense Plants Administration,
are enclosed.

You are requested to conduct a prompt
investigation to identify the unknown Soviet clerk
who conversed with [redacted] during the Summer of
1951, probably during August, 1951.

The following information regarding [redacted]
[redacted] was found in the Bureau files. A loyalty form
request dated October 23, 1947, prepared by the Personnel
Division, Civil Aeronautics Administration, First Region,
385 Madison Avenue, New York City, states that [redacted]
was born on [redacted] at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
The title of his position was given as "Aircraft
Communicator." His Army serial number appears as [redacted]
His Social Security number is [redacted] The dates and
places of his residence for the past ten years were listed
as follows:

October 1945 to date [redacted] Washington, D. C.
June, 1945 - October, 1945 [redacted] Alexandria, Va.
January, 1945 - June, 1945, Y.M.C.A., New York, New York
June, 1944 - January, 1945, [redacted] Philadelphia, Pa.
December, 1941, - June, 1944, U.S. Army Air Corps [redacted]
1937 - December, 1941, [redacted] Philadelphia, Pa.

The following employment of [redacted] was listed
for the last ten years:

October, 1945 - Date Civil Aeronautics Administration,
Washington National Airport,
Washington, D. C.
June, 1945 - October, 1945 Civil Aeronautics Administration,
Washington National Airport,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

*Copy furnished
Bu. Aeronautics report
dated 10/22/52
WTC*

105-3610-2
R.C.
W

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Washington Field

DATE: August 15, 1952

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
(SOVIET EMBASSY CLERK,
WASHINGTON, D. C.)
ROBERT A. MAHEU - INFORMANT
INTERNAL SECURITY - RRobert A. Maheu
67-11411R. A. Maheu
66-666

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Washington, D. C.
June, 1945 - October, 1945 Civil Aeronautics Administration,
Washington National Airport,
Washington, D. C.

AUG 21 1952

Enclosure

Misc.

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DATE 10/21/52

WFO

ROOM NO. 406

PHONE 359

☐ PHOTOGRAPHING

☐ PHOTOSTATING

DUPLIGRAPHING

☐ MULTI-LITHING

ADDRESSOGRAPHING

Searched	
Serialized	
Indexed	

REMARKS OR DESCRIPTION UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Soviet Embassy Clerk,
Wash., D.C., Robert A. Haheu-Informant
IS-R

APPROVED

SIGNED

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105-3610

HOC/adGriffiths

R. B. HOOD,
SAC

PHOTOGRAPHIC

NEGATIVES	
POSITIVES	
CONTACT-PRINTS	
ENLARGEMENTS	
LANTERN SLIDES	
MOUNTING	
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DELIVERED	DATE TIME INITIAL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NO. _____

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TO MECHANICAL SECTION:

DATE 10/21/52PLEASE PREPARE THE FOLLOWING FOR WFO ROOM NO. 106 PHONE 359

- ☐ MIMEOGRAPHING ☐ PHOTOGRAPHING ☐ PHOTOSTATING
☐ MULTIGRAPHING ☐ DUPLIGRAPHING ☐ MULTI-LITHING
☒ REPLIMAT ☐ ADDRESSOGRAPHING

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		ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 05-19-2009 BY 60322 UC/LP/STP/KM		
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REMARKS OR DESCRIPTION UNKNOWN SUBJECT, Soviet Embassy Clerk,
Wash., D.C., Robert K. Baker Informant
IS-R

APPROVED _____

SIGNED _____

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WFO/admittals

R. D. HOOD,
SAO

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PHOTOGRAPHIC

NEGATIVES	
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